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School Savings Bill Signed Into Law

LANSING -- Cost-saving legislation sponsored by Senate Education Committee Vice-chair Nancy Cassis (R-Novi) was signed into law on Friday.

Senate Bill 365 streamlines the use of the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) by requiring all data submissions go directly to CEPI rather than other state agencies. The legislation received strong bipartisan support, passing the Senate unanimously.

“This new law is a victory for Michigan’s schools,” said Cassis. “Making CEPI a clearinghouse for educational data will save taxpayer dollars and allow schools to direct more of their education funding toward their students - where they belong - by allowing CEPI and state agencies to coordinate their efforts and information more efficiently.”

The purpose of CEPI, a state agency under the Department of Management and Budget, is to collect and report data about Michigan’s K-12 public schools and make that information a resource to the public. That data includes student test scores, enrollment figures, graduation and dropout rates, teacher information, pupil/teacher ratios, crime and safety data, financial information, and building infrastructure.

Currently, schools are required to submit their data to CEPI, in addition to many other state agencies. This has caused duplicated efforts on projects costing schools and the state valuable time and resources.

Under SB 365, state agencies such as the Family Independence Agency, the State Police, and the Department of Education that need information on Michigan’s public schools can contact CEPI and the data would be forwarded at the agency’s request.

The Senate Education Committee held hearings in March asking educational leaders to bring forth suggestions on how the legislature can implement cost-saving measures for school districts. Senator Cassis introduced this legislation as a result of those hearings.

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